

and our environment. He actually led the charge to tackle the issue of acid rain and had tremendous success.

He is remembered by his colleagues as a remarkable individual and never lost sight of the reason he was elected: to fight for all of us in upstate New York.

Sherry was born in 1936. He spent his childhood in my hometown of New Hartford, New York. Prior to elected office, Sherry Boehlert graduated from Utica College, a local favorite. He went on to serve as chief of staff to former Congressman Alexander Pirnie and then also served under former Congressman Donald Mitchell before he actually served as county executive and later as Congressman. He married his lovely wife, Marianne, and was immensely proud as a father to his four children.

I just wanted to share a few reflections on Sherry. I obviously had the honor of working with him while I was a staffer for the Assembly. I do live in our former Congressman's home, Alexander Pirnie, and while Sherry was his chief of staff, he often commented to me about what I have done with the house. Where I was, what I have done with it, how much time he spent there and how he knew every corner of it, working with our former Congressman.

I also have a funny story about our family business. Our newspaper, the Mid-York Weekly, and also the Pennysaver were located in the district, and I had the occasion to invite Congressman Boehlert to visit us and to see our operations. It was quite a fun day.

We got to the back—in the newspaper business, as many know, we have an inserting operation where we put our flyers in the back of the newspaper, and it tended to be filled with a lot of retired farmers and a lot of people from our community, particularly a lot of very energetic senior citizens—and Sherry got back there and was really excited to meet them all.

One of them put him to the challenge to see if he could actually do the job. And so Sherry, without hesitation, took off his business coat, rolled up his sleeves, sat down and started inserting newspapers in our business. They loved him for that. It was really a fun moment, and I think he had a really great time with our seniors and with a lot of our staff.

We are always grateful for him for coming to our newspaper. And also for his annual support of a publication, a special publication we put out each February honoring our Presidents, our Vice-Presidents, our First Ladies, and of course our First Dogs, and Sherry was always so supportive of us for that.

We are just so glad that we are able to honor him this week with so many great reflections and so many people reaching out to me in Congress. Over the last week, it was really heartwarming to get those messages from Members of Congress, and I might add on both sides of the aisle. I have seen

many tributes, even on the Senate side. He will always be fondly remembered by all of our colleagues, Republicans and Democrats.

Earlier this week, I had the distinct honor of participating in his funeral service alongside previous elected officials from our region, also other Congress Members. It was a solemn occasion honoring his life, but also a joyous one to celebrate all that he achieved for our community.

Today, my thoughts and my prayers are with Sherry's family, especially his wife, Marianne, who is also a devoted public servant.

I ask that you please join me now in remembering Sherry with a moment of silence in this great Chamber where he served so many years. Thank you, all.

□ 1045

TIME IS NOW TO INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, the time is now to make historic investments in families, workers, and communities across the country.

Everyone, no matter who they are or where they live, deserves access to modern, dependable infrastructure to maintain the quality of life for Americans in the 21st century. That is why we must pass the President's bipartisan infrastructure package tomorrow.

We are living off the investments our grandparents and parents made generations ago. In many communities, that is no longer sustainable.

In my home State of California, we are suffering from the devastating effects of climate change, historical fires, and droughts.

Farmers in the San Joaquin Valley, which I represent, also need an infrastructure that reflects their ability to put food on America's dinner table every night. The devastating dry conditions and the lack of water have led many of them to fallow their fields, hundreds and thousands of acres of productive farmland.

It is as simple as this: Without food from our farmers, Americans don't eat. It is a national security issue. Therefore, we must fix our broken water infrastructure system.

The only way to ensure farmers have the water they need to feed our Nation is to build and improve more conveyance and storage facilities.

This infrastructure package will help that, as well as efforts that we are pursuing under the reconciliation package. We need to capture and improve and store water for times such as now.

In addition to that, we need to make other critical investments in rural and underserved areas by expanding broadband. Broadband access today is just like rural electrification was in the 1930s. No American should be without broadband.

We also learned from the COVID-19 crisis that access to quality healthcare is critical. It is critical that we have ample physicians and nurses. We can make more protective equipment, but we can't make more doctors and nurses. Therefore, we have a serious shortage of healthcare professionals, and that is why a part of this effort to build back America better is to provide medical schools and underserved areas improved access to our broadband. That is critical. We must do that.

In addition, investing in public transportation for our economy is just as essential. The United States is trailing other nations when it comes to investments in modern infrastructure and transportation like high-speed rail. It is time that we bring our system into the 21st century.

Finishing California's high-speed rail efforts, along with four other corridors in the country, will help our climate, improve traffic gridlock, and reduce emissions that pollute the air.

Climate change is an important part of this essential package of investing in our infrastructure. We know, with the results of droughts, fires, floods, and hurricanes, that the climate is changing, and we need to provide tools to address that.

Without critical investments in this infrastructure package that we will vote on tomorrow, our Nation will suffer. Making life better for our constituents is my top priority and should be the priority of Congresspeople throughout the country. It requires us to focus on the health and development of our communities, and the economy needs us to support this effort.

Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, as we talk about building back better, let me also note that we must pass a continuing resolution to ensure that government stays operating.

Shutting down the government is not an option, and we should act upon this in the next 24 hours to whatever extended date is agreed as well as lifting the debt ceiling.

In the 17 years I have been here, I have never, under Republican and Democratic administrations alike, voted to shut down government. That is irresponsible, and therefore, we must also lift the debt ceiling. This is, in fact, to pay bills that Congress in the previous administration has already created, and we don't want to be deadbeats.

The impacts on our economy would be devastating in terms of even contemplating shutting down government or not lifting the debt ceiling.

HONORING SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I was saddened to learn of our colleague Congressman Sherry Boehlert's passing. I served with him during his last term, as he was chair of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Sherry was terrific. Sherry's focus on making sure that Americans address the needs of science in a changing world was always at the forefront as chairman of the committee. I went with Sherry on an incredible trip to Antarctica to explore the impacts of climate change.

Beyond his contributions to the Congress and to the people of our country, Sherry was an avid baseball fan. Sherry loved representing Cooperstown and had the best baseball collection I have ever seen.

God bless you, Sherry, and your family.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as National Recovery Month.

It is important that we draw attention to this special month as we continue to battle the ongoing addiction epidemic in our country.

For 32 years, National Recovery Month has continued to celebrate the gains made by those in recovery as well as promote and support new evidence-based treatment and recovery practices. It is also a time to focus on raising awareness and understanding of mental health and substance use disorders.

Over the past month, many of my colleagues have sported purple ribbons to show our support for those in recovery.

Currently, over 23 million Americans are in recovery from an addiction to drugs or alcohol. By recognizing National Recovery Month, we can highlight the strength of the recovery community and show support to our healthcare workers, first responders, friends, family, and community who support those in recovery.

Addiction to alcohol or other substances like opioids is an ongoing epidemic plaguing communities across the Nation. We know addiction does not discriminate. It can happen to anyone, regardless of race, gender, or socioeconomic status.

That is why this year's National Recovery Month theme is "Recovery for Everyone: Every Person, Every Family, Every Community."

As we continue to battle the addiction epidemic, we must highlight the work of organizations like Faces and Voices of Recovery that promote National Recovery Month and continue to provide resources to those in recovery as well as friends and family.

In my home State of Pennsylvania, there were more than 5,200 deaths due to drug overdoses this past year. These numbers continue to be highly alarming, and we must continue to work to combat this epidemic.

No one can tackle addiction on their own, and by recognizing National Recovery Month, we are showing there is light at the end of the tunnel, and with the right support, there is a road to recovery.

Throughout the month of September, Faces and Voices of Recovery encourages local communities to host events to highlight the services available for those in need.

Last week, Venango County Human Services celebrated National Recovery Month at Franklin's Bandstand Park. This event had family-friendly activities, where those who participated could win prizes, enjoy refreshments, and pin a ribbon on the recovery board. The event celebrated community members, first responders, healthcare workers, and others who support recovery. Local vendors were encouraged to set up tables to share information about their programs. The evening ended in a candlelight vigil, remembering those who had passed due to their addiction.

By engaging our local communities, we can continue to make recovery and those who support it possible. We can work together to change the way addiction and recovery are understood, to better support those who are struggling.

As September ends, let's continue to elevate the organizations that provide resources and support to those recovering from addiction.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 54 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

O God, our king eternal, You divide the day from the night, turn the shadow of darkness into morning light. You separate the dry land from the waters, the Earth from the heavens.

Remind us again that You have created all things, breathed life into each creature that walks on the Earth, flies in the sky, or swims in the sea. You are the source of our every blessing.

Call to our awareness that You reign over dominions and nations, principalities and palaces. Sit upon the throne of our hearts and reign in us.

With You as our guide, we have but to yield to Your direction.

With You as our master, we have but to serve Your will.

With You as our ruler, we have but to submit to Your design.

And so we pray that we would humble ourselves before You this day, that You would lead us in the way we should go: in our dealings with each other, in the decisions we face, in the debates we hold.

O Lord, You are the alpha and omega, the beginning and the ending. In You, we live, move, and have our being.

May we serve You well and faithfully this day.

In Your sovereign name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mrs. MURPHY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

INVESTING IN AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

(Mrs. MURPHY of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

The Senate passed the bill with all 50 Democrats and 19 Republicans voting yes. Now, it is time for the House to follow suit. Then we can send the bill to President Biden, who played a critical role in crafting this legislation.

In Congress, we have been talking about investing in America's infrastructure for decades, to the point that it has become a punch line. Now, we are finally on the cusp of taking action to match the rhetoric.

Passage of this bill will prove the two parties can still work together in partisan times. It will show the American people their elected leaders can govern in a competent and constructive way, despite their differences.

The bill will provide my home State of Florida with better roads and bridges, improved rail and bus options, modernized air and seaports, high-speed broadband, and clean drinking water. It will improve quality of life